United Nations S/2016/48

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2016

Original: English

# Letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the aggravation of the situation in Donbas (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-00706 (E) 200116

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## Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the aggravation of the situation in Donbas

18 January 2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strictly condemns yet another attempt of the Russian Federation and its proxies to aggravate the security situation in Donbas.

Despite the ceasefire, agreed during the recent meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group, the number of armed provocations against anti-terrorist operation forces along the contact line continues to grow.

Only on 17 January, militants shelled anti-terrorist operation positions and civilian objects 48 times; on 15 and 16 January, 40 and 36 times, respectively. Moreover, in addition to small arms, they used 82 mm and 120 mm mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-aircraft warfare and armoured personnel carrier armaments. Deliberate shooting at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission vehicle on 16 January was a particularly outrageous action.

The nature of such actions proves their thorough planning. These actions undermine not only the core essence, logic and consecutiveness of the Minsk agreements; they also derail all efforts undertaken by Ukraine and the international community aimed at restoring peace and stability. In fact, they make the implementation of the political part of a peaceful settlement impossible.

We draw the attention of the international community to yet another proof of Russia's deliberate neglect of the Minsk agreements as well as its full responsibility for the situation in some areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Because of the Kremlin's deliberate policy of upholding its "hybrid war" against Ukraine, we are able to state that almost a year after the adoption of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, the situation in eastern Ukraine remains extremely fragile and far from a restoration of peace, security and regular life in the areas suffering from terrorists.

We call on our international partners not to fall for the deceptive manoeuvres of the Russian aggressor, which constantly demonstrates impressive mismatches between its rhetoric and its real actions. In this light, political pressure on the Russian Federation and the implementation of diplomatic and restrictive measures are of critical importance for the enforcement of the Kremlin's return to the international legal framework.